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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: N. Aoyama
Serial No.: 09/376,651
Filed: August 18, 1998
TITLE: FEED ASSISTANCE MEMBER AND A MEDIUM PROCESSING APPARATUS

Examiner: Cone, D.
Group Art Unit: 2854
Docket No.: JA9-98-073

9-12-03
L. Spruell

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 29, 2003.

David Victor

fee OK

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated May 29, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected claims 19 and 38 for failing to comply with the written description requirement (35 U.S.C. §112, par. 1) and claims 2-38 as anticipated (35 U.S.C. §102) by prior art. On July 29, 2003, the attorney for Applicants and the Examiner held a phone interview discussing the patentability over the claims. During the phone interview, certain amendments to the claims were discussed. The Examiner indicated that such proposed amendments may distinguish the claims over the cited art, but further consideration was necessary. Applicants submit that claims 19 and 38 comply with the written description requirement for the reasons discussed herein. Further, Applicants amended certain claims as discussed during the phone interview and submit that such amendments place the case in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein. Applicants further correct the Abstract, Specification and drawings to overcome Examiner objections thereto.

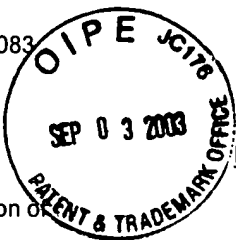
Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3.

Amendments to the drawings begin on page 11 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12.

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PATENT
JA998073
0036.0066

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
N Aoyama)
Serial No.: 09/376,651)
Filed: August 18, 1999)
For: FEED ASSISTANCE MEMBER AND A)
MEDIUM PROCESSING APPARATUS)

Examiner: Ren Luo Yan

Art Unit: 2854



24033

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith in the above-identified application is an:

- ☒ Amendment 15 pages.
☒ Replacement Drawing Sheets (3)
☒ Return Postcard.
☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		PRESENT EXTRA RATE	ADDIT. FEE	OR	RATE	ADDIT. FEE	
TOTAL	37	MINUS	37	=	0	x	\$0	OR	x 18	\$
INDEP CLAIMS	6	MINUS	7	=	0	x	\$0	OR	x 84	\$
____ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM						+	\$	OR	+ 280	\$
					TOTAL		\$0	OR	TOTAL	\$-0-

____ Please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0466 the amount of \$ ____ to cover the extension fee and also the amount of \$ ____ to cover the claim fee. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

____ A check in the amount of \$ ____ to cover the extension fee is enclosed.

____ A check in the amount of \$ ____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

____ A check in the amount of \$ ____ to cover the petition fee is enclosed.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0466. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims.

☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 29, 2003

David W. Victor

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David W. Victor

8/29/03
Date